

## 20200105 – BEFORE THE FEEDING OF FIVE THOUSAND

Sunday AM – John 6:1-4

### I. MUCH HAS HAPPENED

- a. The Gospel of John
  - i. Remember the events in John don't follow along chronologically
  - ii. The other three Gospels (Synoptic)
    - 1. Include many of the same stories
    - 2. Often identical wording
    - 3. John's Gospel gives us a view into the early ministry of Jesus
      - a. The first miracle at Cana
      - b. The woman at the well
      - c. Two trips into Jerusalem before His arrest
      - d. Raising of Lazarus from the dead
      - e. A last speech to His apostles
  - iii. But one act takes place in ALL FOUR Gospels
    - 1. The feeding of the 5000
    - 2. If God tells us about it 4 times
    - 3. We better pay attention to Him
  - iv. A harmony of the Gospels
    - 1. Very few times are four columns filled
    - 2. The crucifixion and this miracle
    - 3. Think about that for just a second
- b. Gentile Audience
  - i. John translates for us
    - 1. He has helped several times with understanding for the gentile
    - 2. Often John describes Jewish things for us
    - 3. John 5:18 – "What's the big deal?"
  - ii. John 1:1 – See of Tiberias
    - 1. A few reasons for this
    - 2. First, the Gentile would probably know that name better
    - 3. As a Roman, the name Tiberias meant great deal
    - 4. Tiberias was founded in 18 AD by Herod Antipas, son of Herod the great and Jewish ruler of the Galilee (4 BC-39 AD). He was appointed by Augustus Caesar as the ruler of Galilee and Peraea, the east bank of Jordan. He made the new city his capital, and named the city after the Roman emperor, Tiberius Caesar.
    - 5. It could also be that John's Gospel was written later than the others, he is the only one who uses this name, maybe more commonly in use by that time
  - iii. Feast of the Jews (vs. 4)
    - 1. John helps again by letting us know about Passover
    - 2. In the Old Testament, it was a solemn assembly unto Lord God

3. Once it as a feast of Jehovah
  4. Now, just a feast of the Jews
- c. Withdrawals from Galilee
- i. Old time theology books will term this one of 4 withdrawals
    1. He withdraws from Galilee here in John 6
    2. A second one in Matt 15:21 / Mark 7:24
    3. A third one right after in Matt. 15:29 / Mark 7:31
    4. A fourth one in Matt. 16:5 / Mark 8:13
  - ii. Each time
    1. He goes into the mountains
    2. And keeps out of Herod's territory
  - iii. Four reasons given
    1. The jealousy of Herod Antipas
    2. The fanaticism of would-be followers in Galilee (John 6:15)
    3. The hostility of the Jewish rulers
    4. To go apart to instruct the Twelve
    5. If we look deeply, we will see all four
  - iv. John just says after these things
    1. But a lot had happened BEFORE chapter 6
    2. A Missions trip
    3. Training
    4. And the death of John the Baptist

## II. CHRIST SENDS OUT HIS DISCIPLES (LUKE 9:1-6, 10)

- a. He had just healed the little maid (8:52)
  - i. And they laughed Him to scorn
    1. They didn't know who they were dealing with!
    2. Jesus never attended one funeral in all the Bible!
  - ii. THEN (vs. 9:1)
    1. What was their mission?
    2. To preach the gospel and heal the sick
    3. The healing was a sign of their authority
    4. The same authority He gave them in vs. 1
  - iii. He had just shown how He could raise the dead
    1. Pfft! Diseases? No sweat!
    2. He had given them AUTHORITY
- b. Take nothing for your journey
  - i. Not staves, not scrip, not bread, nor money, nor extra coats
  - ii. Just GO!
    1. Sometimes it seems like we spend too much time practicing
    2. When we should be preaching
  - iii. He gave them some rules
    1. Go and abide and preach (vs. 4)

- 2. If they won't hear, shake of the dust and move on! (vs. 5)
  - iv. And they DID it (vs. 6)
  - v. Why take nothing? He wanted them to by faith
- c. After they returned (Vs. 10)
  - i. They told Him
    - 1. Can't you hear the excitement in their voices?
    - 2. We went here and this guy said
    - 3. But we said
    - 4. And then they brought us a sick one
    - 5. And they said no one could heal them
    - 6. But then we said...
  - ii. On and on, like a bunch of puppies!
  - iii. Would that we would get that excited about what God was doing!
- d. He took them to a desert place

### **III. JOHN THE BAPTIST KILLED – MARK 6:18-29**

- a. While the disciples were out preaching
  - i. One of His dear saints was meeting his end
  - ii. John spoke the truth and it made her mad!
  - iii. Mad enough to kill him, but Herod was superstitious and scared
  - iv. We need to be aware
    - 1. When the truth makes us mad. Or scared
    - 2. Maybe something's wrong
- b. Daughter of Herodias
  - i. Step-daughter and niece? Wicked!
  - ii. We know the story
- c. The Disciples
  - i. John's disciples (vs. 29)
  - ii. Jesus's disciples (vs. 30)
- d. He took them to a desert place

### **IV. HEROD HEARS ABOUT JESUS – MATTHEW 14:1-2**

- a. Remember the fear and superstition of Herod
  - i. He was a pagan king
  - ii. Living in a pagan empire
  - iii. Remember Paul's trip to Athens
  - iv. Act 17:22 – "Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious."
    - 1. Everything is a god
    - 2. All forces of nature
    - 3. India – a shrine everywhere
    - 4. Temples – so many they forgot where they built them

- b. Now Herod truly fears
  - i. This isn't shrinking fear
  - ii. This is dangerous fear
  - iii. What might Herod have done if Jesus had been an ordinary man?
  - iv. What do kings usually do with someone they don't like?
- c. At THAT Time (vs. 1)
  - i. Jesus withdrew from Galilee
  - ii. Not because Herod could do anything to God Himself
  - iii. But because the Father had given Him work to complete!
- d. He took His disciples to a desert place apart (vs. 13)

## V. THE DESERT PLACE

- a. In the desert place, there is coolness
  - i. On the seashore in summer – heat!
  - ii. In the press of the crowds – stress!
  - iii. In markets of the cities – noise!
  - iv. In the mountainside with Jesus – cool, peace, and quiet
- b. In the desert place, there is fellowship
  - i. He went up into a mountain and there He sat with His disciples
  - ii. He's God! Sitting on the ground or a rock.
  - iii. Talking with His disciples
  - iv. Enjoying fellowship!
- c. In the desert place, there is rest
  - i. They had had a great Preaching trip
  - ii. They had travelled far into this city and that
  - iii. But now He bids them rest
  - iv. Rest with Jesus
- d. In the desert place, there is instruction
  - i. He sat there and taught them
  - ii. Held in rapt attention, until He looks up
  - iii. And see the crowd waiting around them
  - iv. In the desert places, the Word of God speaks clearly

## VI. COME TO HIM

- a. The hustle and bustle of this World will tie you up in knots
  - i. Come apart and rest with Him for a little while
  - ii. Spend time with Him!
  - iii. Listening to His Word
- b. What if you don't know Him
  - i. He is a God that is knowable
  - ii. He is a God that is loving
- c. Be Saved Today!